

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current
scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
CENTRAL STATES FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION
Columbus, Ohio

LIE
CURRENT

September 15, 1943

Technical Note 56

Preliminary Report on Lumber Production for 1942 in Iowa

A

by L. F. Kellogg

To most people, Iowa, located in the heart of the Corn Belt, seems far removed from the whirl of sawmills. Preliminary results of the census of 1942 lumber production indicate a production of 56,072,000 board feet by 823 active sawmills. These, with the 266 reported idle, total 1,089 sawmills for the State. Little of the production represents import of logs, such as occurred years ago when lumbermen rafted millions of feet of white pine logs from the Lake States down the Mississippi River to Lansing, Dubuque, Clinton, Davenport, Muscatine, and other river towns in Iowa. The importance of the present industry and its product grows under present war conditions with current restrictions on movement of lumber for local and farm uses from distant regions.

Final production statistics which are now being compiled by the Bureau of the Census and which will be released by that agency in due time, are based on a complete coverage of the industry by mail supplemented by a field canvass of delinquents and new mills by the Forest Service. Nineteen-forty-two is the first year that lumber production has been obtained in the entire State in this manner.

By kinds of wood, oak led (36 percent), followed by cottonwood, elm, walnut, maple and basswood. (table 1). Softwoods account for only 0.7 percent of the total and that came almost entirely from planted windbreaks and shelterbelts. The relatively important place of the very small farmer-owned and custom mill which produces less than 50 M board feet per year is noteworthy. A little over 16 percent of the State's 1942 production originated at mills of this character.

Table 1. -- Estimated lumber production in Iowa by kind of wood and size class of mill, in 1942

	: Quantity produced annually	:	:	
Kind of wood	: by mills producing:	:	Total	Proportion
	: 49M & less : 50M or more	:	:	:
	:	:	:	:
	<u>M ft. b.m.</u>	<u>M ft. b.m.</u>	<u>M ft. b.m.</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<u>Softwoods</u> 1/				
Cedar	2	7	9	-
Fir (balsam)	17	36	53	0.1
Larch	2	73	75	0.1

^{1/} Preliminary data subject to revision. Final production statistics will be released by the Bureau of the Census. Both preliminary and final statistics are the result of surveys made by the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce and the Statistics Division, War Production Board. In Iowa the State Forester and the Extension Service, Iowa State College gave active support and assistance to the work.

Table 1 (Cont'd)

Kind of wood	Quantity produced annually by mills producing:		Total	Proportion
	49M & less	50M or more		
	M ft. b.m.	M ft. b.m.	M ft. b.m.	Percent
<u>Softwoods (cont'd)</u>				
Pine (white)	71	73	144	0.3
Pine (yellow)	19	33	52	0.1
Spruce	10	48	58	0.1
Total Softwoods	121	270	391	0.7
<u>Hardwoods</u>				
Ash	184	631	815	1.4
Basswood	451	2,720	3,171	5.7
Birch (river)	55	237	342	0.6
Cottonwood	2,375	9,269	11,644	20.8
Elm	1,391	7,053	8,949	16.0
Hickory	68	220	288	0.5
Maple	695	3,613	4,313	7.7
Oak	2,977	17,143	20,120	35.8
Sycamore	54	266	320	0.6
Walnut	108	5,368	5,476	9.8
<u>Other:</u>				
Black cherry	7	7	14	-
Box elder	4	2	6	-
Butternut	-	41	41	0.1
Hackberry	19	22	41	0.1
H. locust	-	5	5	-
Willow	47	89	136	0.2
Total Hardwoods	8,935	46,746	55,681	99.3
Total all woods	9,056	47,016	56,072	100.0
Percent	16.2	83.8	100.0	-

1/ Softwood lumber saved predominantly from logs cut in plantations established during the 1860's to 1890's. The "larch" is European larch and the "spruce" is Norway spruce.

Table 2 gives the production and number of mills by counties.

Table 2. -- Estimated lumber production in Iowa and number of sawmills
by size class of mill, in 1942¹/

County or counties	Production class					Total		Active mills	
	Idle		49 M per year or less		50 M per year or more		mills	Production	Mills
	mills	Mills	Production	Mills	Production				
	No.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.	
Adair & Union	1	3	20	3	239	7	259	6	
Adams, Montgomery & Pottawattamie	10	8	66	3	1,056	21	1,122	11	
Allamakee	7	15	288	15	3,315	37	3,603	30	
Appanoose	4	13	275	6	470	23	745	19	
Audubon, Harrison & Shelby	4	7	174	3	679	14	853	10	
Benton	1	5	82	3	203	9	285	8	
Blackhawk	1	4	47	5	631	10	728	9	
Boone, Marshall & Story	6	7	118	4	848	17	966	11	
Bremer	-	10	174	3	635	13	809	13	
Buchanan & Delaware	1	15	298	6	948	22	1,246	21	
Buena Vista, Cal- houn, Cherokee, Ida, Pocahontas, Sac & Woodbury	14	7	121	3	998	24	1,119	10	
Butler, Cerro Gordo, Franklin & Grundy	4	7	164	5	404	16	568	12	
Carroll	-	3	57	-	-	3	57	3	
Cass	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	
Cedar	3	6	54	5	1,035	14	1,039	11	
Chickasaw & Winneshiek	8	25	379	4	550	37	729	29	
Clarke	1	6	56	3	110	10	166	9	
Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, O'Brien & Osceola	2	6	119	3	514	11	633	9	
Clayton	12	30	540	15	4,836	57	5,376	45	
Clinton & Jones	5	7	82	6	946	18	1,028	13	
Crawford	1	4	43	-	-	5	43	4	
Dallas & Polk	8	10	206	5	949	21	1,155	13	
Davis	6	11	221	6	488	23	709	17	
Decatur, Lucas & Wayne	12	19	337	5	372	36	709	24	
Des Moines	6	8	82	4	1,778	18	1,860	12	
Dubuque	5	13	115	13	6,203	31	6,318	26	
Fayette	3	14	203	7	831	24	1,034	21	
Floyd	5	5	97	-	-	10	97	5	
Fremont	1	7	72	3	381	11	453	10	
Greene	2	-	-	3	217	5	217	3	
Guthrie	2	3	9	3	320	8	329	6	
Hamilton, Hancock, Kossuth & Wright	5	6	47	3	498	14	545	9	
Hardin	3	9	60	4	396	16	456	13	
Henry & Louisa	10	22	358	6	528	38	886	28	

Table 2 (Cont'd)

County or counties	Production class					Total mills	Active mills	
	Idle		49 M per year or less		50 M per year or more		Production	Mills
	mills	Mills	Production	Mills	Production			
	No.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.	M ft. b.m.	No.
Howard & Mitchell	5	10	186	3	394	18	580	13
Humboldt	-	3	39	-	-	3	39	3
Iowa	2	10	172	7	859	19	1,031	17
Jackson	3	17	328	10	1,408	30	1,736	27
Jasper	2	6	140	3	403	11	543	9
Jefferson & Keokuk	6	18	330	5	317	29	647	23
Johnson	7	17	355	6	770	30	1,125	23
Lee	6	3	65	7	602	16	667	10
Linn	1	12	141	11	2,528	24	2,669	23
Lyon			(no sawmills found)					
Madison & Warren	8	15	184	3	200	26	384	28
Mahaska	3	11	226	5	265	19	491	16
Marion	5	14	231	5	912	24	1,193	19
Mills	7	3	30	-	-	10	30	3
Monona	6	6	120	-	-	12	120	6
Monroe	1	4	71	3	256	8	327	7
Muscatine	6	5	66	5	2,034	16	2,150	10
Page	-	4	101	-	-	4	101	4
Palo Alto	1	3	33	-	-	4	33	3
Plymouth	3	5	38	-	-	8	38	5
Poweshiek & Tama	12	15	253	6	1,094	33	1,352	21
Ringgold & Taylor	5	9	106	3	231	17	537	12
Scott	5	7	164	-	-	12	164	7
Sioux			(no sawmills found)					
Van Buren	2	7	123	7	1,518	16	1,641	14
Wapello	3	7	137	3	606	13	743	10
Washington	7	15	254	10	742	32	996	25
Webster	3	12	111	4	261	19	572	16
Winnebago & Worth	2	6	33	3	338	11	371	9
Total	266	559	9,056	264	47,016	1,089	56,072	323

1/ Several counties have been combined to avoid disclosing data for individual establishments.

The total production provides added valuable information when it is segregated into the portions manufactured by mills of different total output. In table 3, besides the relatively large portion manufactured by small producers, the production of medium-sized operations accounted for about 50 percent of the 1942 production; and the relatively few half- to one-million-foot operations, and those producing 1 to 5 million board feet accounted for about a seventh and a fifth of Iowa's 1942 production, respectively.

Table 3. -- Number and estimated production of sawmills
by production classes, in Iowa, in 1942

Annual production class (M feet b.m.)	Sawmills	Lumber production
	Number	M feet b.m. Percent
1 - 49	559	9,056 16.2
50 - 499	239	28,382 50.6
500 - 999	17	7,792 13.9
1000 - 4999	8	10,842 19.3
Total	823	56,072 100.0

The sawmill industry carried relatively low stocks in Iowa. Out of the 823 producing sawmills, in 1942, only 60 reported carrying stocks (table 4). The small mills had very little on hand. The 50 M to 499 M class group, comprising about 40 per-cent of those reporting stocks, carried only a few hundred thousand feet. Although the two larger groups reported carrying around a half million feet, it actually amounts to little in relation to current needs for remanufacture, maintenance and repair. In all, these reported totals show a decline of about 100 M during the year. Apparently Iowa's lumber moved on to the farmer, consumer, concentration yard operator, retail yard, or to wood-using industry just about as fast as the sawmills produced it.

Table 4. -- Number and estimated production of mills reporting stocks
on Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 1942, and the amount of those stocks

Production class (M feet b.m.)	Mills reporting stocks on hand	Production	Stocks on hand 1942
	Mills	M feet b.m.	Jan. 1 Dec. 31
	Number	M feet b.m.	M feet b.m. M feet b.m.
1 - 49	23	596	28 43
50 - 499	25	3,470	438 224
500 - 999	6	3,759	32 352
1000 - 4999	6	6,594	475 301
Total	60	14,419	1,023 920

